

**NATIONAL TOWING SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NTSAC)
TASK STATEMENT**

TASK # __ - __

I. TASK TITLE:

Report on the Accuracy and Validity of Towing Examination Questions

(Short Title: Towing Exam Questions)

II. BACKGROUND:

Section 315 of the 2015 Coast Guard Authorization Act requires that the United States Coast Guard to commission a working group to review existing and new examination questions for accuracy and availability of examination references. Examination question review is an opportunity to assist the National Maritime Center (NMC) and involved mariners make long-term improvements to the knowledge examination system.

III. DISCUSSION:

In an effort to make long-term improvements to the knowledge examination system, the U.S. Coast Guard tasks the National Towing Safety Advisory Committee to review current towing questions for accuracy and validity, and also recommend new questions reflecting contemporary towing practices and regulations.

The purpose of this task statement is for NTSAC members to modernize towing exam questions to reflect towing industry transformations from uninspected to inspected as well as contemporary towing applications to the U.S. Coast Guard. The report should include an analysis of current exam questions, and the applicability to towing vessel operations. Additionally, NTSAC should take this opportunity to discuss the value of towing exam questions as it pertains to towing license requirements.

IV. TASKING:

NTSAC will prepare a final report for the U.S. Coast Guard that provides analysis and discussion on the following topics:

1. Provide analysis of National Maritime Center towing exam questions and segmenting them into three sections as follows: Edit, Remove, or Retain.
2. Provide analysis of edited or retained towing exam questions and segment them into four sections as follows: General Towing Questions, Assistance Towing, Uninspected Towing, and Inspected Towing.
3. Provide analysis of each of the four segment and propose modern questions to reflect current regulations and contemporary towing practices.

4. Parse each of the four segments into license routes sub-segments to include:
 - a. Oceans
 - b. Near Coastal
 - c. Inland
 - d. Western Rivers, and
 - e. Great Lakes.
5. The committee may also offer other recommendations as appropriate.

V. ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE TASK

TBD.

VII. COAST GUARD TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE:

POC: Mr. Jeffery Brandt Email: Jeffrey.R.Brandt@uscg.mil
POC:

VIII. NTSAC CONTACT

IX. ENCLOSURES:

Enclosure (1): TASK 13-03 “Recommendations to Create Standardized Terminology for the Towing Industry.”